Carangas–
Chipaya

/389 cont./

278 [177] The Čipaya Indians of Carangas have been so deeply impregnated with the influence of the Aymara Indians that we may presume that, in the sphere of medicine, they are hardly distinguishable from their neighbors of the altiplano. It is completely [439] justifiable if their knowledge is more rudimentary because of their isolation and the difficulty which they experience in obtaining the medical substances, almost all of which come from the Yungas. I was able to convince myself of this by examining one day a bag of medicine which had been left by a deceased Čipaya, the father of a young Indian with whom I had a friendly relationship. In the legacy of the old man I found several pharmaceutical products which I had obtained in the Oruro market. The deceased possessed small amounts of them which he had carefully wrapped in some small rags. His son refused to sell them to me, allegedly because of their great value and the difficulty of procuring them. I doubt, [199] however, that anyone in Chipaya could have benefited from them, for, to my knowledge at least, there is no Indian in this village who possesses sufficient skill to carry out their application.

• 16A 99 123 Practically every day in the hut which I was occupying I received visits from Indians coming to ask me for remedies for various ills. The most frequent was constipation, which seems to frighten the Čipaya very much. I was also able to see a hernia and a terrible infection which the Indians treated by applying a [578] piece of llama heart to the abscess. The Indians often called upon me to care for swellings, the result of drubbings which they [442] had not spared themselves in their domestic quarrels. Some also came to beg me to cure them of impotence. In some not very serious cases of swellings or localized pains, the Indians content themselves with sticking a coca leaf on the skin.

757 At present the empirical medicine of the Čipaya seems to be limited to a certain number of insignificant recipes, frequently and easily applied. Faced with a serious case they have recourse to complicated magical processes which I had the good fortune to observe. I should not be able to say, however, if the exceptional

/196 cont./

162 Aymara women:

551 Rosa Choque, 60 to 70 years old, Aymara from Machaca.

Francisca Arosquipe, 40 to 50 years old, Aymara from Guaqui.

María Chura, 40 to 50 years old, Aymara from Guaqui.

Half-breed children:

Victor Inta, m., 10 to 11 years old, son of Luis Inta and an Aymara woman.

Eugenio Inta, m., 8 to 10 years old, son of Luis Inta and an Aymara woman.

Ramon Inta, m., 2 years old, son of Luis Inta and an Aymara woman.

Manuela Inta, f., 3 years old, daughter of Luis Inta and an Aymara woman.

Domitilia Tacon, f., 6 years old, adopted Aymara.

162 Total:

6 Uru men, from 40 to 95 years old (one of whom is certainly of mixed blood).

6 Uru women, from 30 to 95 years old.

9 Uru children, 5 boys and 4 girls, from 4 to 15 years old.

3 Aymara women.

4 Uru-Aymara half-breed children.

1 adopted Aymara child.

[125] The age of all these subjects was, of course, estimated approximately. Even the relationship of several of them is doubtful.

164 One of the children of mixed blood, Victor Inta, was struck by typhus exanthematicus.

161 This list shows the deep decline of the group. In 1938 162 there were four patronymic names, those of the four big 621 families in Iru-Itu: the Inta, the Vila, the Kispe, and the [551] Salinas. In 1942 the Salinas /family/ had emigrated or disappeared, leaving only an orphan. The Kispe /family/

/207 cont./

143 Kline: ++

[164] /208/ We shall only conclude from this isolated observation the existence of possible heredosyphilis or of a very attenuated syphilis in one of the most conservative members of the group, who always severely condemned sexual relations with other natives as being against the traditions.

128 These few isolated examinations have no great significance; they do emphasize however the interest which a numerous series of hematological and serological investigations among the isolated native groups of the Cordillera or the South American forests would have.

Conclusion

141 [128] In spite of the small number of subjects examined (9), owing to the rapid decline of the group and its approaching extinction, this study of the last Uru of Iru-Itu permits us to make a few interesting conclusions.

[171] Height varies little from that of the neighboring Andean populations, and small and medium stature predominate. The population is as a whole macroskelic.

The cephalic index among the men who can be considered as not crossbred with the neighboring populations is lower than 75.0% (average: 73.51). Three women are moderately brachycephalic; we must note that they are closely related.

Dolichocephaly, a tendency to leptocephalia and to leptoprosopy, the bigoniac diameter almost equal to the minimum frontal diameter, leptorrhinism, a high and narrow ear succeed in characterizing this group.

114 141 144 As a whole these results agree with the few previous observations on the Uru and the Chipaya (Imbelloni's two Uru skulls; a few measurements by Posnansky), emphasizing the morphological unity of these two groups.

9:La Barre E-4,5 (1938) 1941
SF24 Uru SF24

slant. The skin is definitely darker than that of the Aymára. Walle (page 155) thought that the foreheads of the Uru were narrower than those of their neighbors, but much of this I believe may be due to the sometimes striking width at the outer corners of the jaw (see for example, Posnansky's Figure 92). The lips are moderately full; the Uru share in the ancient Amerindian habit of pointing with the lips. The teeth of the fish-eating Uru are whiter and appear less carious than those of the *čuñu*-consuming Aymára (*čuñu* is a preparation of potatoes, with the nitrogenous and liquid matter fermented and frozen and dried out of it). Perhaps because they are fishermen, the Uru are much cleaner than the Aymára and have no such repugnant body odor as they.

The women wash their hair in stale urine, which apparently contains a grease-cutting principle and use an Aymára-type brush-comb in caring for it. The hair, which is of course straight and jet-black, is parted in the middle and worn in two braids back of the shoulder, the ends tied to each other with vicuña- or llama-wool cords so that they do not fall forward when the woman is working or bending over. The men cut the hair very short in quasi-European fashion or cut it in an all-around bang like many of the natives of the Bolivian tropics.

The Uru are shorter even than the short-statured Aymára, so that a European of only moderate height appears to tower over them: the average cannot be much more than five feet for adult males. They do not have the grotesquely disproportionate long torso and short legs of the Aymára; indeed, in spite of their short stature, their legs appear to be well-proportioned and even relatively longer than those of *altiplano* inhabitants in general. The most striking difference from the neighboring Aymára is in the nose: the Uru nose is relatively small, and depressed at the root, while the Aymára nose is unqualifiedly enormous in all dimensions and continues the line of the forehead in many cases.

The bodies of the Uru are sturdy and graceful, but not so heavily and conspicuously muscled as the Aymára; this is undoubtedly due in part to their different modes of life, on the water and on the land, respectively. The younger women are well-formed and attractive by any standards. Even in so small a group I noticed one little girl spin her distaff left-handedly. The Uru appear to be healthier than the Aymára, possibly because of a more varied diet, but they have a skin disease which they call *tututin*. No adequate osteometry or craniometry has ever been done for this group.

Clothing. Anciently, it is said,[17] the Uru "vivian desnudos del todo," but this unsupported statement is flatly incredible to anyone who knows the

[17] In Neveu-Lemaire, *Les Lupe*, p. LXI.